TO 39: ICT4E Quarterly Report FY 2013, Q1

GLOBAL EVALUATION & MONITORING II
GEM II BPA Number EDH-E-39-08-00003-00
Contract No. AID-EDH—E-00-08-00003
Order No. AID-OAA-BC-11-00004

January 31, 2013

The present Task Order was signed in the third quarter of FY2011, on June 22, 2011. The activities outlined in this Quarterly Report focused largely on continuing to expand the mEducation Alliance's reach by expanding membership, supporting the Alliance's two main working groups: Mobiles for Reading and Mobiles for Youth Workforce Development, follow-up activity related to the mEducation Alliance International Symposium and All Children Reading Development Exchange which took place at the end of the previous quarter, and continuing to provide ongoing support and coordination for the day to day running of the mEducation Alliance Secretariat. A contract modification was also submitted in this quarter to ensure the additional activities requested are in alignment with the deliverables of the Task Order.

(1) Analytical Research

- Aguirre/JBS initiated the process to begin a comprehensive Landscape Review of Mobiles for Reading (mReading), specifically interventions for early grade learners, to inform and support the development of the mReading Working Group. Aguirre/JBS created and disseminated a Scope of Work (SOW) and job announcement for a consultant to conduct the Landscape Review, and performed an online scan of qualified candidates to supplement the candidate pool. In addition, Aguirre/JBS initiated an analytical scan of existing projects, literature, reports, and case studies in the mReading field to provide preliminary findings to the selected consultant to help speed up the research. USAID selected a consultant for the Landscape Review who will further expand on the initial research provided by Aguirre/JBS and provide a critical analysis beginning in January. Aguirre/JBS negotiated contract terms and set up the procedures for work to begin immediately in Q2.
- At the request of the COR, Aguirre/JBS developed a series of feedback questions for USAID's distribution to solicit information from mEducation Alliance community members regarding the impact of the Alliance.

(2) Knowledge Exchange
- At the request of the COR, Aguirre/JBS provided logistical support for the production and supply of mEducation Alliance materials that would be presented and distributed at the ITU Telecom World 2012. The event included a signing ceremony in which the ITU signed the mEducation Alliance Charter, thus becoming a valuable member of the Steering Committee and strengthening the development of the Alliance. Aguirre/JBS liaised with ITU around the event to help arrange the ceremony and develop the document, and created a PPT for presentation at the mEducation Alliance table at the event. Aguirre/JBS purchased 500 flash drives and preloaded them with mEducation Alliance materials for distribution at the event.
- Following the official launch of the mEducation Alliance website, Aguirre/JBS continued to support and manage the website and its content. Aguirre/JBS created two feature articles about the 2012 mEducation Alliance International Symposium, in addition to updating upcoming events, and focusing on making content available from the Symposium online.
- In addition, Aguirre/JBS is actively soliciting organizations to submit their projects to populate the website and inviting select mEducation community members to write blogs, etc. to attract website participation through Twitter and other outreach.

(3) E-Forums, Workshops, and Conferences
- On December 4th, Aguirre/ JBS held the mEducation Seminar Series, "First, Do No Harm." As the presenter was located in London, this seminar was completely virtual with participants from around the world. The event was followed by a weeklong online discussion moderated by the presenter and organized and facilitated by Aguirre/JBS.
- Aguirre/JBS also dedicated significant effort this quarter towards follow-up activities from the 2012 mEducation Alliance International Symposium: *Partnering for Scale and Impact*. Aguirre/JBS staff compiled, analyzed, summarized, edited and finalized notes and reflections from the breakout sessions, plenaries and event activities. Individual session summaries were sent to editors and reviewed by multiple readers to ensure quality production; these would eventually be used to create the comprehensive Symposium summary report. Symposium bills and financials were paid.
- In addition, all video footage of stakeholder interviews was reviewed in order to select four segments that would be edited by the video editors and prepared for posting on the website and other PR use (per SOW with video editor).
- Aguirre/JBS worked with GSMA and Alcatel-Lucent on the development of a PSA video on mLearning, providing feedback on storyboarding, audience, and concept. Aguirre/JBS also worked with GSMA and Alcatel-Lucent to help interview leaders in this field at the Symposium for the video, estimate costs, and will share video footage to be used in the video.

(4) Support for Improved Analysis of ICT4E Global Activities
- Aguirre/JBS assisted USAID by responding to requests for information regarding ICT activity.

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(5) Mobiles for Education for Development Alliance
- This quarter, Aguirre/JBS continued to develop and support the recently launched Mobiles for Youth Workforce Development (mYWD) Working Group. This included managing and supporting the development of a Landscape Review conducted by a mYWD consultant. Findings were presented and discussed among the mYWD community during two Learning Series events (in Oct and Dec) which were organized and facilitated by Aguirre/JBS. In addition, support was provided for online discussions hosted through the mEducation Alliance website in mYWD Community Space.
- Following the in-person Steering Committee meeting at the end of Q4, Aguirre/JBS followed up on proposed action items posed by the committee, including providing technical support to create two new committees to support the mEducation Alliance and Steering Committee (SC): an Executive Committee (EC) and a Private Sector Advisory Committee (PSAC). Aguirre/JBS conducted research on similar entities to guide the design and proposed roles and responsibilities of each of these committees. Aguirre/JBS drafted proposed organizational structures for both groups. Aguirre/JBS circulated the proposed documents among SC members for feedback and approval. Aguirre/JBS initiated and monitored voting for the EC and five volunteers from the SC were confirmed to serve on the EC (the first meeting is scheduled to take place at the beginning of Q2).
- In an effort to build sustainability of the mEducation Alliance, Aguirre/JBS recommended a business consultant with expertise in the area of Alliances, long-term financial structuring and strategic planning to help develop a business plan and long-term planning for the Alliance. Aguirre/JBS created a SOW and recruited a number of qualified candidates for USAID's review.
- Aguirre/JBS wrote and submitted a proposal for presentation at UNESCO's Mobile Learning Week. The proposal was accepted.
- Aguirre/JBS has been in discussions with GSMA about possible presentation opportunities at Mobile World Congress.

(6) Education Grand Challenge / All Children Reading (ACR-GC)
- This quarter, Aguirre/JBS provided technical support for ACR-GC on several fronts:
    - Tracking and resolving ticketing, billing, and reimbursement requests and issues related to supported participants from the ACR-GC '*DevelopmentXChange*' event on Sept. 7
    - Resolving billing issues with HAC Insurance
    - Helping update/correct information in TraiNet with USAID
    - Working to resolve travel expense issues with USAID involving complications during trip
    - Taking minutes for various meetings related to ACR-GC partners and meetings, and
    - Reporting on billing and expenses from ACR-GC *'DevelopmentXChange'*

Anticipated Activities for Coming Quarter

In the coming quarter, Aguirre/JBS will begin the mReading Landscape Review, continue with planning and logistical preparations for a number of mEducation Alliance events. Aguirre/JBS expects to help Steering Committee organizations take a more proactive role in supporting the mEducation website; kick off the Mobiles for Reading Working Group; continue to develop and support the SC, Executive and Private Sector Advisory Committees; conduct outreach through participation in UNESCO's Mobile Learning Week and GSMA's Mobile World Congress; and continue to provide administrative and logistical support for the USAID-led Education Grand Challenge – All Children Reading.

Budget Overview
The following table displays the expenses allocated for each sub-activity of this Task Order this quarter (FY2013 Q1) and cumulative spending totals for each sub-activity.

Task Order Activity	FY2013 Q1	Cumulative
A. Analytical Research	$890.95	$26,151.50
B. Knowledge Exchange	$6,923.45	$27,210.78
C. E-Forums, Workshops, and Conferences	$24,095.07	$445,860.05
D. Support for Improved Analysis of ICT4E Global Activities	$730.00	$7,322.71
E. Mobiles for Education for Development Alliance	$55,086.55	$408,564.65
F. Education Grand Challenge / All Children Reading (ACR)*	$11,125.29	$156,092.24
Total	**$98,851.31**	**$1,071,201.93**

* This represents a new category of activities under this Task Order and will be included as such in the forthcoming award modification request.